

international efforts with respect to the stabilization and reconstruction of Iraq pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue in effect the national emergency declared with respect to this threat and to maintain in force the sanctions I have ordered to address this national emergency.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 8, 2007.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 1684, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections in the engrossment of H.R. 1684, including corrections to the spelling, punctuation, section numbering and cross-referencing, and the insertion of appropriate headings.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

WE ARE AT A CROSSROADS AGAIN

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, we are at a crossroads again. The legislation that we worked so meticulously on to ensure the funding of our troops just about a week ago saw the veto pen of the White House without consideration of the failed mission that Iraq has become.

I did not say military operations because I believe that our soldiers are valiant, and they have achieved the success that we've asked them to achieve. That is why I went to the Rules Committee today to ask for the consideration that the resolution in the fall of 2002 should expire. In fact, it has expired, because we have shown there is no nexus or was no nexus between Saddam Hussein and terrorism. There were no weapons of mass destruction; and, of course, we know that Saddam Hussein is no longer in power.

Unfortunately, our President has expanded the resolution, building on it, surging troops, and the great loss of life has harmed the United States.

There's been no diplomacy, there's no reconstruction, and the government of Iraq is weak. I hope that when we debate this question tomorrow that we will recognize that the best solution is a diplomatic, a political and social solution that requires a reconstruction, if you will, of Iraq, the inclusion of the allies surrounding the region, the engagement with Syria and Jordan and Saudi Arabia, working with NATO.

But, more importantly, it requires that we redeploy out of Iraq; and I hope we will consider at some point the idea of the resolution expiring.

It is time to save lives, those of our soldiers, and to bring them home in dignity.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

UP OR DOWN VOTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I rise to call for an up or down vote on a timetable for getting U.S. soldiers out of Iraq. Simple, straightforward and to the point.

Do we stay or do we redeploy?

All this talk about benchmarks is a diversionary tactic by the administration to keep making war. Last November, the American people elected Democrats for one reason above all others, to get U.S. soldiers out of Iraq and get Americans out of the Iraq war.

The American people have given up on the credibility of the President. Every week another poll confirms another vote of no confidence by the American people against this President. In a new poll, the Americans disapprove of the President's handling of the Iraq war by a two to one margin.

Newsweek magazine has the President's approval ratings even lower. Nearly 7 in 10 Americans believe the President's actions in Iraq show he is stubborn and unwilling to admit his mistakes.

In USA Today, nearly 80 percent don't believe the President's assertion that a U.S. presence in Iraq is preventing terror attacks here at home.

The American people get it. Nothing good comes from being in Iraq, and nothing worse will happen by leaving Iraq.

The American people have issued orders, but the President refuses to redeploy his thinking. More U.S. soldiers and more Iraqi civilians are dying every day. Iraqi children are being traumatized every day by the sight of dead bodies in the street. Over a million Iraqi civilians have fled to Jordan and Syria, where the refugee crisis grows by the hour.

And the President's plan to address this reality is spending more money building concrete walls in Baghdad. Walling in the Iraqi people isn't going to solve anything and may, in fact, worsen the ethnic cleansing that is essentially a part of a civil war raging throughout the country.

How ironic that a Republican President authorizes building concrete walls

to contain and separate Iraqi people. The Soviets tried it in Berlin, and it wasn't many years later that Ronald Reagan, a Republican President, told Gorbachev, "Tear down this wall."

Iraqi leaders are demanding that the U.S. stop building walls that are in effect concrete jail cells, locking up innocent Iraqi citizens and making them easy prey for more attacks. It may be their country, but that doesn't matter to this White House.

By yesterday, 144 Iraqi lawmakers out of 275 signed a petition calling for the U.S. to set a timetable to withdraw. That is a majority. The story broke this morning on Alternet.com, and one of the reporters, Joshua Holland, has broken other significant news stories concerning Iraq. This is the first time that over half of the duly elected members of the Iraqi Parliament have gone on the record demanding a date for U.S. withdrawal.

Iraqi leaders want their country back, but this President isn't going to honor that request. The President's veto of the supplemental Iraq spending bill was his de facto military escalation of the war, a declaration that he intends to keep making declarations of war, not peace, and the President's veto was his rejection of working with the Congress to end the Iraq war.

A war with benchmarks is still a war. A war with benchmarks in this administration is a war without end. The only benchmark this administration will understand is an up-or-down vote on the Iraq war. And we have been promised an up-or-down vote on Iran, and we need to take that as well.

Members deserve the opportunity to say with their vote what they think and what we are hearing back home from our constituents. Unless we do the job the American people elected us to do, the President won't be the only one getting a vote of no confidence.

The people have spoken and spoken. In the People's House, it is time we accept the will of the American people. Schedule an up-or-down vote on setting a timetable for getting U.S. soldiers out of Iraq.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. SUTTON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

LIVABLE PITTSBURGH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ALTMIRE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, it is a true pleasure for me to stand here tonight to talk about my favorite city, the city of Pittsburgh, which was once again named by Rand McNally as America's "most livable" city.

Now, Rand McNally has been designating cities as livable for 26 years, and

Pittsburgh is the first city to ever repeat. We also won it in 1985. They do it every 4 years. And I can't tell you how happy I am to have this designation because this shows for the rest of the country and the rest of the world what we already know in Southwestern Pennsylvania, that Pittsburgh is a great place to live and work. And Rand McNally has done this through formula. And 379 cities are rated on nine categories: housing, transportation, jobs, education, climate, crime, health care, recreation and ambiance, which covers its being a great place to live and work and things to do.

Pittsburgh was in the top 30 percent in the housing category. It is 93 percent of the national average in the cost of living with regard to housing. In transportation, Pittsburgh's commute is 25 minutes to work one way. And I challenge the rest of my colleagues in some other areas of the country to match that. I know that it is frustrating during rush hour to find your way into work, and in Pittsburgh generally on most days you can get in relatively quickly.

The average house in Pittsburgh is 49 percent below the national average in cost at \$112,000. So that is why we rank so high in housing. In jobs, Pittsburgh is in the top quarter there. For 100 years, it still is one of the Nation's top corporate centers as home to Fortune 500 companies: Alcoa, Heinz, Mellon, PNC, PPG, U.S. Steel, and WESCO International. We have more than 90 multi-billion dollar, global corporations that call the city of Pittsburgh home.

We have more than 2,000 acres of ready-to-go sites near our airport. We have the Nation's second busiest inland port with our three rivers and the waterways. And importantly, for the environmentally conscious, Pittsburgh has the most certified "green" buildings in the entire country.

In education, we are home to 34 colleges and universities, including Carnegie Mellon University, which always is ranked as one of the best in the entire Nation. We have four distinct seasons with 7 months that see sunshine 50 percent of the time. And I will admit that our winters can be tough, and that was probably not our strong suit, but we still were number one overall.

Pittsburgh in crime has the lowest crime rate of any of the top 25 cities in the entire country, and this is a consistent rating that Pittsburgh has finished strongly.

In health care, we are an international leader in medical research and innovation. We have a world class health care system. We are ranked 14th overall in the country and our children's hospital is ranked 11th in the entire country.

In recreation, we have five cities. We have three rivers that provide 38 miles of shoreline for recreational purposes such as fishing. And we have PNC Park for our baseball team, which has been rated consistently as the top baseball

park in the country. We have a new Penguins arena scheduled to be built and a great young hockey team. And we have a football team that has now won five Super Bowls. So we have a lot of sports and recreation to do.

And in the performing arts, we have more performing arts concentrated in one area than any city in the country outside of New York City. It has been voted the second best cityscape in America, the view from the top of Mt. Washington in Pittsburgh. We have whitewater rafting and downhill skiing within 90 minutes. And we have a bike passage that goes all the way from the city of Pittsburgh to right here in Washington, D.C.

So, again, the fact that we were number one in Rand McNally for the second time did not surprise me, and it did not surprise the rest of the people in western Pennsylvania. But it might have come as a surprise to some other people around the country.

And I stand here tonight to tell my colleagues and anyone else that may be viewing tonight that Pittsburgh is a fantastic place to live and work, especially for young people. And we are doing a much better job now attracting and retaining a younger workforce, and we have shown through a variety of ways that we have young and dynamic leadership.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SESTAK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SESTAK addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SHAYS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HINCHEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CUMMINGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE 30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I would like to welcome my colleagues to another addition of the 30-Something's hour. I would like to thank the Speaker of the House, NANCY PELOSI, for allowing us the opportunity to get together and talk not only about some of the most important issues that face this hall this week and at this moment but also talk a little bit about how these issues are of particular concern to people of younger generations in this country.

We are going to be joined today, I know, by Mr. ALTMIRE, who just gave a very compelling 5-minute address to the House and, hopefully very soon, by Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, one of our favorite members of the 30-Something Group.

Madam Speaker, hopefully we will get to touch on a few different topics, but I think we need to touch on at the beginning of this hour the subject that really dominates the debate in Washington, D.C., right now, that dominates